
Monitoring Student Learning

Oral and written feedback is shared in a variety of methods throughout lessons, activities, and projects. Additionally, progress is given through PowerSchool.

The link for PowerSchool can be found at <http://www.decorah.k12.ia.us> under Enroll. Please contact the school office if you forgot your password or any other additional information.

Communication

Canvas is a Learning Management System (LMS) that the Decorah Community School District has adopted. The LMS is a way to simplify teaching and learning while providing equitable access and instructional continuity to enhance the learning experience for all students. As a parent, Canvas is your one-stop shop to keep current with your child at school.

Our 5th-grade newsletters are emailed at the end of each week. Paper copies are available upon request.

Primetime

Primetime lasts for 30 minutes every Wednesday morning.

- Build teacher/student rapport
- Social-emotional educational opportunities
- Organization
- Developing positive self-esteem
- Developing a growth mindset

Curriculum

Our curriculum is driven by the Iowa Core State Standards. You may find more information at <http://www.educateiowa.gov>

Contacts at DMS

Principal

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Associate Principal/Activities Director

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Guidance Counselor

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Intervention Specialist

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Nurse

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Teachers:

Mr. Amundson - Language Arts
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Mr. Fromm - Social Studies
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Mrs. Halweg - Math
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Mrs. Nowack - Reading
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Mr. Peterson - Science
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Mr. Bouska - Special Education
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Mrs. Oftedahl - Special Education
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Mrs. Hogan - Extended Learning Program
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Welcome To 5th Grade at DMS!



Decorah Middle School Mission Statement

Learning-Thriving-Creating Our Legacy

At Decorah Community School District we embrace student learning and well-being as our fundamental purpose; we will, in partnership with our students, families, and community, make the world a better place.

DMS Safe School Rules

- We will not bully others.
- We will help students who are bullied.
- We will include students who are left out.
- If we know somebody is being bullied, we will tell an adult at school and an adult at home.

Reading

Curricular resource: *Into Reading*

- Comprehension strategies
- Reading fluency
- Vocabulary development
- Collaborative discussions

Language Arts

- Writing for a variety of purposes
- Grammar & usage
- Language conventions
- Word study & spelling
- Multimedia presentations

Math

Curricular resource: *Zearn Math*

- Whole Numbers
- Measurement
- Decimals
- Data Analysis
- Algebra
- Fractions
- Geometry
- Problem Solving

Band/Orchestra/Chorus

- Students have the option to participate
- See separate music brochure for more information

Social Studies

Curricular resource: Social Studies Alive

- U.S. history
- Founding documents of the United States
- Inquiry
- Geography
- Civics
- Iowa history

Science

- Matter and Its Interactions
- Energy and Ecosystems
- From Molecules to Organisms
- Earth's Place in the Universe
- Earth and Human Activity
- Engineering Design

Physical Education

(two or three days each week)

- Fitness through activity and sports
- Muscular strength
- Cardiovascular endurance
- Muscular endurance
- Flexibility

Other information for parents

The handbook is located in the front of the planner.

- Please get a visitor's pass to enter the building.
- It is appreciated when you request homework during student absences.

Exploratories

Classes rotate in the following order:

Art

- Observe connections between art, science, math, and language
- Build artistic habits
- Explore new materials and limitations

Applied Digital Skills

- Keyboarding
- Computer Basics
- Projects with Productivity Software
- Internet Safety/Privacy
- Scratch Coding

Guidance

- Social relationships
- Academics
- Career goals
- Healthy choices in life

Library

- Acclimating to a larger library
- Reading promotion, time to read, and guidance selecting books
- Curiosity project to develop questioning techniques, finding credible sources, paraphrasing, and citing sources

Music

- Elements of music: timbre (sound), melody, harmony, rhythm, and form
- Studying melody and rhythm through singing